Phoenix Historical Society
Organized in 1998; Opened in 1999

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Inside this issue:

Local Correspondence 1861	2
Otto Caster	2
Board Members	2
Pompadour Bluff	3
This 'n That	4

Looking forward to our Second Annual Potluck June 9th at 6:00 pm at the Phoenix Museum. More info to come.

Arthur R. Dubs

Art was born February 26, 1930, in Phoenix, Oregon. He was a Southern Oregon man through and through, living his entire life in the region and enjoying the outdoors from a young age.

Art parlayed his strong work ethic into a successful development and custom home building business. Dubs Custom Homes populated the Southern Oregon real estate market in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and his homes are still as popular today as when they hit the market.

During the 1960s, Art merged his love for the outdoors with his newfound interest in the film industry to document his outdoor adventures. The years of documenting trips and filming wildlife resulted in Arthur starting a motion picture business, Pacific International Enterprises, which put a little Hollywood in Medford. Pacific International Enterprises created over 12 full-length feature films that played in theaters throughout the country and internationally . In 1981, Arthur produced the film "Windwalker," which was nominated for an Academy Award. He also wrote and produced the family adventure series, the "Wilderness Family."

Arthur was renowned for his hunting abilities. In 1960, he took the world's largest polar bear as recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records and Life Magazine. He still holds the world record for the largest "Grand Slam" of North American bighorn sheep. In 2010, Safari Club International honored Arthur with the International Hunting Rig Award for his worldwide hunting accomplishments. Many of his hunting trophies are on display at the Bass Pro Shop "Wonder of Wildlife" Museum in Springfield, Missouri.

Finally, Art was a devout Christian who believed that "into whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48). Throughout his life, his stewardship of the Lord's gifts benefitted the Apostolic Faith Church, The Dubs Cancer Center and ultimately, established the Arthur R. Dubs Foundation in 1996 to provide financial support to worthy causes for years to come.

Taken from the Internet.

Arthur Dubs, seen here on a trip to the Himalayas

Photo from Pacific International Enterprises

Local Correspondence. PHOENIX, February 27th, 1861

EDITOR SENTINEL:---

Since I last wrote you from this place, the mines which are worked have continued to pay equally well as I then reported. A few days since some miners came here from the Sterling and Bunkum diggings for the purpose of testing the richness of the placers in this neighborhood. In looking about they took a fancy to an enclosed field belonging to a gentleman living near here, and as miners generally do when they think it will pay, they pitched in with a hearty good will, to the great annoyance of the owners of the field, who, with a partner, was mining in a gulch a few hundred yards off. The two waited upon the newcomers and asked them if they intended prospecting there, advising them at the same time that it would not pay. Finding the strangers determined to satisfy themselves by actual demonstration, they then declared that the field had been taken up for mining purposes several months back. To prove the truth of their assertions they went to the fence a short distance off and produced a rail having a large sliver attached to it. On detaching the sliver, a bit of paper dropped, which on examination proved to be a notice establishing a claim to between five and six hundred yards, of rather *ancient* date, and which included the entire field. This exhibit astonished the disputants, as well as a few others, who had by this time arrived at the scene of action. It appears that the claimants had sunk a shaft in the field last summer, and finding flattering prospects, they fitted the shaft again, obliterated the traces of their work, and to keep down suspicion, they had secreted their notice in the fence rail, having other claims ready for working when water was supplied. The Bunkumites, and others thus accidentally let into the secret, are not at all satisfied with this unique style of notification, however, and have staked off claims which they propose to work.

The claims of Oatman & Co., Davenport & Co., Coleman, Boxley & Co., and a number of others whose names I do not remember, are paying well. All are at present plentifully supplied with water.

The farmers residing upon Wagner's Creek commenced their ditch this week, for bringing the waters of that stream to these diggings, and they say that they will have it here within six weeks. If so, it will make room for fifty or sixty more miners, and will furnish them water for half the year. With this ditch completed and some other resources we will have for water, we bid fair soon to be classed among the first mining localities in Jackson County.

E.D.F. [Elbert D. Foudray]
Oregon Sentinel, Jacksonville, March 2, 1961, page 3

Thanks to Dorothy Cotton for sharing this article.

When Caster Set Aside Chains

After 40 years, Phoenix sideline volunteer Otto Caster stepped down. He was asked in 1958 by Coach Jack Woodward to man the sideline markers at football games. He only missed one home game when the weather proved too bitter.

"Caster's introduction to the chain gang was simple enough, with Woodward asking him to give it a try. There wasn't much training involved. Caster just had to hold the marker straight and make sure the chain was thoroughly extended." Caster thought it looked like a good place to watch the games from and thought it was something he would like. He liked getting involved in the game more than just sitting in the stands.

He plowed through the schedule in relative anonymity even though he served as mayor, city councilman, volunteer firefighter and booster club member.

He decided to be of assistance no longer because arthritis in his knees wouldn't let him fulfill the duties he so capably handled in previous years. It was getting to the point where it was hard running out on the field to measure or even change ends of the field with each quarter.

Photo by Jim Craven for the Mail Tribune

It was difficult replacing someone as genuine and giving as Otto Caster. Otto passed away June 6, 2016.

Taken from October 1998 *Mail Tribune* article by Chris Henry.

Phoenix Historical Society Board Members

Dick Croly: President

Ken Kantor: Vice President

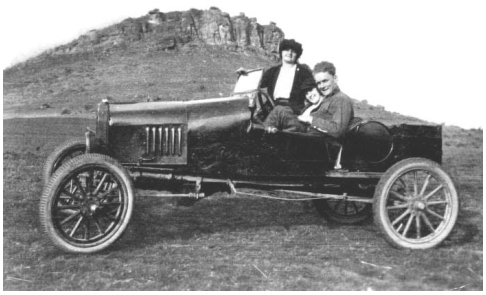
Dorothy Cotton: Secretary

Dorothy Cotton: Treasurer

Lorraine Sexton

Margaret Croly

Pompadour Bluff



Pompadour Bluff, 1920s--A man and two women in roadster at the foot of Pompadour Fluff. Photo by Southern Oregon University Hannon Library

Pompadour Bluff is on Dead Indian Memorial Road one mile east of the Ashland Airport. The bluff is formed from a thick conglomerate bed in the upper part of the Payne Cliffs Formation.

Introducing the Harry & Marilyn Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff

Pompadour Bluff, a dramatic rock landform just east of Ashland in the Cascade Foothills, is an intriguing, inaccessible mystery for people passing by on I-5 or Indian Memorial Highway. On certain spring days, the bluff can be seen from downtown Ashland with a rainbow arcing over green misty slopes and cliffs. In late spring, the grassland surrounding the bluff flashes its "purple mountains majesty" as vetch flowers brighten the slopes. Early Euro-American settlers name the bluff after a popular hair style, but the first peoples of the area, the Shasta and Latgawa, likely had a special name, a name we hope to discover.

The bluff was so iconic that in 2011 Su Rolle, a former SOLC staff member, sent a handwritten letter to the owner, Harry Fisher, asking him if he might want to consider conservation for his iconic land. His response was a surprise: SOLC was already in his will--his intention was to donate the land as the Harry and Marilyn Fisher Preserve for long-term protection. Harry Fisher worked outside, caring for the land up to his 90th year. He loved good whiskey, cigars, and his property, so much so that he worked together with SOLC to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the view of the bluff--and its dynamic ecology--that we value today.

Growing in around the bluff are western juniper trees, rabbitbrush, and robust clumps of bluebunch wheatgrass. Pompadour Bluff is a little bit basin and range. On the flanks of the bluff, some of the oak trees has been alive since the 1830s. Adjacent to the woodland is an intact remnant of Rogue Valley grassland--instead of non-native pasture grasses or annual grasses--the northeast slope is surprisingly full of bunchgrasses and forbs such as Lemmon's needlegrass, squirreltail, mulesears, catsears, and the endemic Southern Oregon Buttercup, only known in Jackson County. Declining birds associated with valley floor oaks and grasslands are common--like Western Meadowlarks and Western Bluebirds. Pompadour Bluff is a little bit of undeveloped Rogue Valley Oak and grassland.

The cliffs are primarily composed of the Payne Cliff Formation made u of former river deposits. Conglomerate rocks, a mix of sediments, gravels and cobbles, as they weather lose large cobbles providing sheltering caves for birds and small mammals. At the top, where the cobbles weathered out, rocky vernal pools collect rainwater during the winter. Nesting in the cliffs, a landform of special importance to wildlife, are Barn Owls, Common Ravens, and a sky-full of flitting Violet-green Swallows.

An unusual shrub, hollyleaf redberry, was also recently found here. This is the first record of this rare shrub in the Rogue Valley. Prior to this find, it was only known in Oregon growing at a few locations in the Applegate Valley and along Scotch Creek in the Klamath Watershed portion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

From the top, the view of the southern Bear Creek Valley is incomparable. A place of beauty, a place for studying geography. The peaks of Wagner Butte and Mt Ashland of the older Siskiyous extend down along forested slopes to the valley floor. Pilot Rock serves as a sentinel to the south while other Cascade peaks, like Grizzly Peak, frame the view to the north.

With help from volunteers, SOLC will care for, conserve and cherish Pompadour Bluff. They envision occasional hikes, stewardship events and eventually, days the land may be open to school groups and interested visitors.

Ref (Southern Oregon Land Conservancy)

Thanks to Marlene Biddle -- March, 2022 for this article.

Harry and Marilyn Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff in spring.

Photo by Donna Rhee

Pompadour Bluff cliffs.

Photo by Richard Jacquot

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Telephone (541) 512-0614

Open Thursday thru Saturday
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Any historical information regarding Phoenix would be much appreciated by anyone receiving this newsletter. Please send to above address or editor.

Become a member of Phoenix Historical Society for just $10.00 a year per person. Join now and help preserve the history of Phoenix and the surrounding area.
Regular PHS meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at **7:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Museum.**

This 'n That

Tackling a Much Needed Repair Job

In early February, Ken Kantor and his friend Kevin Edwards repaired the wheelchair ramp on the right side of the museum. The Phoenix Historical Society is so appreciative of their efforts. The ramp is now much safer for usage by members and visitors.

Photos by Ken Kantor & Margaret Croly